

ABSTRACT

A system and method are described providing a wireless interface to an Internet Protocol (IP)/Internet telephony system. A wireless
5 connection via the unregulated 900 MHz cordless phone spectrum or other spectrum allocated for wireless communications provides an RF link between an IP connection device, a network interface box or set-top box, and one or more wireless handsets. A processing/control element in the network interface box runs the required IP protocols to establish and
10 manage call set-up and teardown, translate the digital voice signal between IP and the local RF link protocol, and provide the RF base station function for the handset(s). Each handset would incorporate the other end of the RF link. The wireless interface to a telephone handset may be through a settop box that is tied into a cable network such as a hybrid
15 coaxial cable network. A protocol such as the Internet Protocol may be used to maintain a digital connection into a cable network while using an RF link to transmit compressed voice/data information between a telephone device such as a telephone handset and an interface unit such as a settop box.